

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A Verse by Verse Study

by

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CHAPTER NINETEEN

Heaven Rejoices Over the Judgment of Babylon; etc.

Revelation 19:1-6:

1. **And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:**
2. **For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath Judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.**
3. **And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.**
4. **And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.**
5. **And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.**
6. **And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.**

In this chapter we will study the marriage of the Lamb and the judgment of the rebellious nations.

The term “**after these things**” is a formula used in Revelation. It appears in chapter 4:1, 18:1, and in our present verse. It refers here to the fall and total destruction of Babylon as recorded in Revelation chapters 17 and 18. The same event is viewed very differently in Heaven from upon the earth.

On earth, the cry of sorrow and mourning is heard, while in Heaven we hear praises and “alleluias.” It was announced in Heaven the moment Babylon fell. To me, that signifies that the righteous will have a ringside seat in the sky and will be eyewitnesses to the entire affair between Christ and Antichrist. All Heaven praises God for the mighty victory.

I often make the statement in my meetings that I feel sorry for the dear people who cannot bear a little noise in their Gospel services. I do not believe in fanaticism nor foolishness - but I believe in praising God in the Spirit.

In verse 1 we hear much people in Heaven saying, **“Hallelujah! Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God!”** He is due all praise, all honor, all glory, and He is all-powerful. God has never had the praise and honor due Him, but at this point and throughout eternity to follow He will be praised by the heavenly host, and His enemies will be in the lake of fire.

In verse 2 the multitude cries out, **“For true and righteous are His judgments: for He hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the Blood of His servants at her hand.”**

In verse 3 we hear a second **“Hallelujah!”** There are four of them in the first six verses of this chapter:

“And again they said, Hallelujah! And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.”

This is not only physical burning and smoke as we know fire and smoke, but this is spiritual burning . . . judgment from Almighty God . . . everlasting destruction. The judgment poured out on Babylon will not be as if Paris, London or New York were burned after a great bombing by the enemy. It will not be just a big city going up in smoke, burned to an ash-heap, with that being the end of the city. The burning here is the judgment of Almighty God on a kingdom of ungodliness, a system of debauchery, a gigantic organization both political and religious - the system of Anti-God, made up of politics, business and religion. The smoke of a literal city like New York could not ascend up forever and ever as does the smoke of Babylon. Babylon is the mother of all Anti-God . . . politics, religion, business . . . anything contrary to righteousness, holiness and purity.

In verse 4, the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fall down and worship God, saying, **“Amen! Hallelujah!”** Here is the third **“hallelujah.”** Yes, all Heaven - every creature from the least to the greatest - will join in the praises. I repeat - I feel sorry for precious people who cannot endure a little noise in religion. I wonder what they will do on this great day of rejoicing?

We learned in Revelation 4 that the four and twenty elders represent the Church, made up of all born again people. The Bride will be happy, for it will be time for her to return to earth with Jesus, to reign in the glorious kingdom of righteousness.

Verse 5: **“And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye His servants, and ye that fear Him, both small and great.”**

The throne of God puts its stamp of approval upon the rejoicing that is in progress in Heaven when Babylon is totally destroyed. All the wicked are in terror; all the saints are filled with joy! All who serve and fear God are invited, small and great, to join in the glad song and the praises - a great relief after the dark, dark picture unfolded on earth during the reign of the counterfeit trinity. Here the terms are sufficiently broad to embrace every soul and every creature in Heaven . . . angels, servants, cherubim, seraphim, whosoever abides in the land of the celestial. This call is not addressed to an unwilling host. All are ready and anxious to praise Jehovah, who is worthy of all praise.

There is also a new cause for joy, a new ground of praise and adoration: The marriage of the Lamb is about to be announced - that great event for which the Church has been waiting and yearning for many centuries. The final announcement of the marriage is about to be sounded out, when John records the first verses of Revelation 19, bursting forth with praise and adoration to the Lord God.

Verse 6: **“And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the Voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!”**

John uses terms here that all can clearly understand.

Most of us have been to the ocean or to great falls, and have heard the continuous roar of **“many waters”** breaking against the shore or rushing over the rocks and through the rapids. Even a little child knows the voice of **“mighty thunderings.”**

In our summer thunderstorms the roar and rumble of the bursting thunder always reminds me anew that on that glorious morning the praises in Heaven will be such as no mortal has ever heard! The noise will be beyond human imagination. Think of it! millions of the redeemed, billions of angels, and all the heavenly host will all be shouting in thunderous voices **“Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!”**:

All Heaven thunders out, **“Hallelujah!”** four times.

The ground for the hallelujah's and praises is clearly stated: **“For true and righteous are thy judgments!”** In chapter 15:3 we saw the harpers on the sea of glass singing **“Righteous and true are thy ways.”**

And in chapter 16:7 the altar is heard saying, **“True and righteous, are thy judgments.”** In the former, God's ways are, in view, while in the latter (as also in our present Scripture) the judgment of God on His enemies is in question. It is a fundamental truth of the Word of God and one to be firmly believed and maintained, that all the Lord God's dealings with His creatures . . . whether in grace or in judgment . . . are characterized by holiness, truth and righteousness. God cannot do wrong.

These essential attributes of the divine being have been conspicuously displayed in the judgment of the great harlot whose two great sins are named once again (and for the last time).

Her sins were that:

- (1) she corrupted the earth with her fornication,
- (2) she was the instigator of the shedding of the Blood of many, many saints.

God has already avenged the Blood of the saints . . . **“and hath avenged the blood of His servants (bondmen) at her hands.”**

THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

Revelation 19:7-10:

- 7. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.**
- 8. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.**
- 9. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.**
- 10. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**

In these verses there are two main subjects:

1. God is assuming His kingly power.
2. The Lamb is taking His Bride - the New Testament Church - unto Himself and the marriage is about to occur.

While the heavenly host sound out thunderous praises unto the Lamb, the moment has not yet arrived for the Lord Jesus to sit upon His throne. All is in preparation, however, getting ready for that grand and glorious event when the Lord Jesus will reign. Yes, that blessed moment for which all creation groans and waits (Romans 8:22), that blessed moment for which the Church hopes and prays and for which the weary tribes of Israel look with eager expectation, is soon to come to pass. But two events must take place before the throne of the world can be occupied by Christ:

- (1) Babylon with her hellish systems had to be judged and destroyed in earth,
- (2) the marriage of the Lamb must be celebrated in Heaven.

Then Jesus will return to this earth, and we (the Bride) will return with Him.

In verses 7-10, Babylon having been judged and destroyed, the marriage is about to take place. All Heaven is jubilant. Isaiah 9:6-7 is about to be fulfilled:

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end”
(Luke 1:31-33).

Part of this glorious announcement to Mary has been fulfilled: She did conceive, she did bring forth a son, she called His name Jesus, He was great, and He was called the Son of God.

The Lord God has not yet given to Him the throne of His father David, nor does He reign today over the house of Jacob; but, praise God, HE WILL!

The throne of David is a historical fact just as truly as is the throne of Caesar; and one day King Jesus will sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem, He will reign over this earth - and hallelujah! we, the Bride, will be married to the Lord Jesus and will reign with Him!

Verse 7: **“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready.”**

The Lamb’s wife (the New Testament Church) is identified with the heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22, 23) and is to be distinguished from Israel. There are those today who rob Israel of her promises and give them to the Church; but this is spiritual thievery. In the Old Testament, Israel is the adulterous wife of the Lord. She will be restored (Isaiah 54:1-10; Hosea 2:1-17).

Israel is identified with the earth . . . an earthly people with earthly blessings (Hosea 2:23).

When Israel (the repudiated, adulterous wife of the Lord) is forgiven and restored, she could not be called either the virgin (II Corinthians 11:2, 3) or the Bride (Revelation 21:9). God have mercy on religionists and teachers who warp and twist the Word of God to fit their denominational beliefs and the traditions of their religious fathers!

Please notice the wording in verse 7: It is not “the marriage of the Bride,” but **“the marriage of the LAMB.”** It is HIS joy that is especially in view - not the joy of the Bride. Never forget, precious believer, God saved you for Christ’s sake (Ephesians 4:30-32; 2:6,7). God saves us for the sake of His only begotten Son, in whom He is well pleased.

No details of the marriage are given. We know it takes place on the eve of the Lord’s return to earth in power. (This is the Revelation - not the Rapture.) The Rapture takes place in Revelation chapter 4:1-4, and is described minutely in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and John 14:3. The marriage of the Lamb is the disclosed secret of Ephesians 5:32. The Scriptures clearly teach that the Bride is not Israel nor a remnant of Israel - but is definitely a Gentile bride, called out from all races. The Church is made up of **“whosoever will”** . . . not a specific group nor a specific nation.

The promises to Abraham will be fulfilled in every minute detail. As I have already pointed out, Israel was the wife of the Lord (Jeremiah 3:14-20; Isaiah 54:1); but JEHOVAH divorced Israel because of her iniquity. She will be reinstated by JEHOVAH, but a divorced wife could never be referred to as a virgin. It is not a divorced wife to whom the Lord Jesus will be married, but a virgin **“without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.”** Read Leviticus 21:13 and 14, and compare verse 13 with II Corinthians 11:2. Then read Ephesians 5:21-33. Study this last passage carefully. The Church will be a glorious Church, having neither spot nor wrinkle. She will be a Church holy and without blemish. Certainly that could not be said of Israel.

WHO MAKES UP THE BRIDE?

I answer emphatically, all saints, all born again people, all believers, all blood-washed people between Acts 2 and I Thessalonians 4:17. Never let anyone tell you that during this Day of Grace one specific group makes up the Bride, while others will be friends of the Bride, servants, etc. I do not deny that there will be friends of the Bridegroom, and there will be servants; but they are made up of other groups, not the saints between Pentecost and the Rapture. Acts 2 marks the beginning of the Church on earth, and I Thessalonians 4:17 marks the termination of the Church on earth. The four and twenty elders represent the redeemed of the Church, seen in Heaven immediately after the translation (the Rapture - Revelation 4:1-4).

The four and twenty elders who represent the Church, the redeemed in Revelation 4, are mentioned for the last time in verse 4 of our present chapter. The twenty-four elders share and share alike; there is no division among them. All twenty-four are identical.

There are very special blessings promised to the saints of this dispensation (Matthew 11:11; Hebrews 11:40). The saints of this dispensation are all baptized into one body by the one Spirit (I Corinthians 12:12, 13).

However, there are other blessings named in the Bible which will be poured out upon all believers, from Adam to the last person to become a recipient of God's mercy and grace.

In our present chapter the term "**elders**" disappears and we see the various companies of saints taking their places in relation to the Lamb of God, the Bridegroom. The Church is imperishable because Christ is its head and foundation.

We are members of His body, bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:23; 5:22-32). The New Testament Church, the Bride, is the nearest and dearest object to the heart of Christ, and is the apple of His eye.

Israel is the apple of the Lord's eye (Zechariah 2:8).

Jesus loved the Church with an unchangeable love. He laid down His life for the Church, He purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25-27). The Church on earth has weathered many storms, and has longed for her lover, the Bridegroom, to appear in the clouds and call her up to meet Him in the air.

We who have the first fruits of the Spirit groan and travail, looking for that glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who will appear in the sky. The trumpet will sound, the dead in Christ will be raised and we will hear Him say, "**Come up hither!**" We will be caught up to meet our Saviour in the clouds in the air.

THE LAMB'S WIFE MAKES HERSELF READY

Note in verse 7, "**His wife hath made herself ready.**"

There are two kinds of fitness, and the New Testament Church is the subject of both:

1. God, in the exercise of His sovereign grace, makes the Bride ready for Heaven and the glories of the Pearly white City. We read, **“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light”** (Colossians 1:12). Only God in His omnipotence, through His sovereign grace, could make the New Testament Church without spot or wrinkle, in order that she might enter the spotless Pearly white City.

2. All believers must make themselves ready ere they enter eternal glory . . . the home of the redeemed.

That is, before the saints are ready to reign with Christ, certain difficulties must be righted.

The Bible very clearly teaches that some who stand before Jesus will be ashamed of themselves:

“And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear (when He comes again), we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming” (I John 2:28).

Certainly this verse refers to believers. There must be, therefore, a period of preparation at the judgment seat of Christ where the Bride will be given an opportunity to prepare herself, to be cleansed; and the believers will be rewarded according to the record of their works.

There are many carnal Christians who live worldly and indifferent lives, who will have to pass through the fires of that judgment seat before they are ready to return with the Lord to reign upon the earth.

All mistakes and misunderstandings will be rectified, the dross will be burned, and the saints will be rewarded for faithful stewardship. This will precede the marriage of the Lamb. Thus, His wife has made herself ready, and will pass from the judgment seat of Christ into the loving presence of the Lamb, to become His Bride forever.

Verse 8 tells us that the Bride will be **“arrayed in fine linen, clean and white,”** the fine linen being the righteousness of the saints. In the Word of God, garments are symbols of righteousness. In Isaiah 64:6 we read that all of our righteousnesses are as filthy rags, thus symbolizing self-righteousness. Philippians 3:6-8 gives a description of the very best a moral and religious man could perform under the Law; however, since the grace of God appeared in Christ Jesus, the garment in its better sense symbolizes the righteousness of God upon all them that believe (Romans 3:21; II Corinthians 5:21).

In Revelation 15:6 we read that the angels who had the seven vials filled with seven plagues were arrayed in pure linen, which here expresses the righteous, holy character of their mission. Their linen signifies that they represented God’s holiness in righteous judgment.

Contrast the fine, white linen of the Bride with the gaudy garments worn by the harlot. The garments of the harlot signified her character, and the same is true of the pure white linen worn by the Bride, signifying that she is spotless and without blemish.

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself, A GLORIOUS CHURCH, NOT HAVING SPOT, OR WRINKLE, OR ANY SUCH THING; BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE Holy AND WITHOUT BLEMISH” (Ephesians 5:25-27).

At last the relationship God intended between His people and His only begotten Son has come to pass . . . the Bride can now enter into the enjoyment of eternal companionship and union of the closest nature with the Lamb. The Church and the Lamb will be united never to be separated, nor will there ever be any friction between the Lamb and His Bride. All evil and sin will have been eternally imprisoned.

The next great event in store for the Church is the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). After the Rapture we will all appear at the judgment seat (II Corinthians 5:10; I Corinthians 3:12-15).

After the judgment seat, the marriage (Revelation 19:7-10). After the marriage, we will return with Jesus to reign in the Kingdom (Revelation 20:6).

The best is just ahead. I am so glad I am one of God’s children! If you are not, you CAN BE if you will simply trust the Lord Jesus and receive Him by faith. He will write your name in the Lamb’s book of Life (Romans 10:9,10).

Verse 9: **“And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”**

John heard the familiar command, **“Write.”** This is more or less a spiritual exclamation point denoting the importance of the communication about to be given:

“Blessed are all who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

This is not said of the Bride. Her blessing is of the highest order and is expressed in the simple words **“bride”** and **“wife.”** No one could have more joy nor a closer union with the Bridegroom than does the Bride; unspeakable joy is conveyed in the term **“bride.”** However, the guests are pronounced **“blessed.”**

Who ARE the guests?

They are friends of the Bridegroom, and as friends of the Bridegroom they enjoy a deeper and dearer character of blessedness and joy than they would if they were friends of the Bride. John the Baptist, forerunner of Jesus Christ, announced the coming of the King and clearly stated that he was a friend of the Bridegroom (John 3:29). John the Baptist was martyred before the Church was formed, but he will no doubt become one of the most honored guests at the marriage supper in the sky. The Old Testament saints constitute the large company of guests, each Old Testament saint being a friend of the Bridegroom, rejoicing in His presence and at the sound of His voice.

No doubt angels will be spectators, but they cannot be guests because they are “**ministering spirits to the heirs of salvation.**” They are special creations of God (Hebrews 1:14). Angels never knew the joy that our salvation brings. They will not be part of the Bride, nor will they be guests and friends of the Bridegroom.

In verse 9 we read of “**the marriage supper of the Lamb**” and later, in verse 17, we hear the angels calling the fowls in the midst of Heaven to come and gather together for the supper of the great God. This supper will be a supper of judgment - and in great contrast to the supper of the Lamb.

The last part of verse 9 assures us that the information given can be depended upon: “**THESE ARE THE TRUE SAYINGS OF God.**”

The basis of our faith and the grounds upon which we preach these things are not speculation. God has spoken - “**Let God be true, but every man a liar.**” There are those who spiritualize, symbolize, and explain away Revelation; but we can depend upon what God has said. In the Old Testament era, God spoke through holy men - the prophets. In the New Testament, God has spoken “**IN HIS SON**” (Hebrews 1:1, 2).

How precious, blessed and assuring it is to have these words of confirmation of these grand and glorious heart-gladdening, soul-stirring truths concerning the glorious events just ahead. How glorious it is to have these words come from Jehovah God Himself.

Evidently John was overwhelmed by the communications he had just received from Almighty God. He fell on his knees before the messenger to worship him. But you will note that this act was checked: “**See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God.**”

For man to worship even the most exalted of God’s creatures is idolatry, and God forbids it. Worship God, and God alone. Love Him with all your heart, soul, spirit and strength, and worship Him only. Angels worship God; the saints worship God. A second time John was about to worship the messenger (Revelation 22:8,9), but again worship was prohibited.

The statement, “**I am thy fellowservant**” placed the messenger in the same category with John . . . they were both servants of their God, to serve Him and worship Him only. Certainly the spirit of the messenger at whose feet John would have worshipped does not correspond with the spirit of some officials, priests, popes, etc., on earth today. They permit men to kiss their hands and feet and fall upon their knees before them in homage and respect, which certainly in a sense constitutes worship.

Millions the world over bow down to images instead of worshipping God through the one Mediator, the Man Christ Jesus, who now sits at the right hand of God the Father to make intercession for us (I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:1-3; I John 2:1,2). Any person who bows before any other person in worship or in prayer is committing the sin of idolatry. We are to worship God, and God alone.

The statement in verse 10, **“I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus Christ,”** should not be confusing to anyone who will compare Scripture with Scripture.

That is the only way we will ever understand God’s Word.

In Revelation 12:17 we find the same statement, referring to the Jewish remnant that will be on earth during the time of Tribulation and up to the consummation of all things. In that verse we find the same words: **“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”**

The statement simply means that the messenger here is a fellowservant having the testimony of Jesus, and the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. The testimony of Jesus bears witness to His resurrection, His presence in glory, and His coming again and all the blessed things connected with that day, so fully revealed in God’s Word.

Thus the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

All prophecy concerns the Lord Jesus Christ, and all intelligent, scriptural proclamations of the coming events are a testimony concerning Himself.

HEAVEN OPENED

In the last section of chapter 19 (verses 11-21) we see Heaven opened. There are three main divisions in these last verses:

1. We see the mighty heavenly Monarch, the Lord Jesus Christ, and His victorious army - verses 11-16.
2. We see the multiplied millions of birds of prey called to feed upon the slain, to partake of the great supper of God - verses 17 and 18.
3. We see the complete overthrow and destruction of the opposing army and the leaders of the army consigned alive to the lake of fire and brimstone. All of their followers are slain - verses 19-21.

Verses 11 through 16 record a very special and important scene. There have been many and varied displays of the Lord Jesus Christ thus far in Revelation.

All of them are given for us **“upon whom the ends of the world are come”** (I Corinthians 10:11). The present vision, in character, extent and results, is second to no vision thus far.

Here we do not have the Lamb of God on a throne, as in chapter 5. Instead, we see Him as the great Warrior-King, victorious in battle, conquering in mighty power.

The appearing of Christ in the sky, riding upon a white horse with the armies of Heaven, will be a gladdening sight to the saints on earth. However, it will be a terrible sight to the armies of Antichrist - yea, the mighty men of earth and all who have been against God's Christ.

"I saw heaven opened." In chapter 6, verse 2, we saw the rider on a white horse. The rider had a bow in his hand, a crown was given unto him, and **"he went forth conquering and to conquer."** The rider of that white horse is the Antichrist; but the rider of the white horse in Revelation 19 has **"eyes as a flame of fire."**

On His head are many crowns, and out of His mouth went a sharp sword. This identifies this rider as the same person whom John saw standing in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks in the very beginning of Revelation. This rider is also the same One whom we saw to be **"the Son of Man"** in previous places throughout the book.

The name of the rider of the white horse in Revelation 6 is not given, but the rider of the white horse in Revelation 19 cannot be mistaken. His name is called **"THE WORD OF God."** On His garments and upon His thigh He has a name written: **"King of Kings, and Lord of Lords."** Certainly no one could misunderstand the identity of this rider.

It was prophesied that Jesus would ride into Jerusalem upon a young donkey: **"Behold thy King cometh unto thee . . . lowly, and riding upon an ass, upon a colt, and the foal of an ass"** (Zechariah 9:9). We know this was literally fulfilled to the letter; the account is found in Matthew 21:4-11. Insofar as we know, Jesus only rode upon an animal one time during His sojourn here upon earth. That one time was upon an humble ass; but see Him in Revelation 19! He is not riding an humble little donkey - He is riding a great white charger!

Perhaps someone is saying, "Preacher, do you not know that this is figurative language? Who ever heard of horses in Heaven?"

Horses and chariots of fire were seen in the heavens in the days of Elijah and Elisha, and if in that day, why not again? (See II Kings 2:11; 6:13-17.) Many times in my meetings, I tell people, "You take care of your end of preparing for eternity, and God Almighty is capable of handling His end of it. You prepare to meet God, and God will take care of the horses. You take care of your sins by committing them to the shed Blood of Jesus Christ!"

People are going to hell, searching the Bible with a magnifying glass, trying to figure out this and that. We are not to figure out anything. **"The just shall live by faith."** We are to study, and leave it to the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

The book of Revelation is full of action - action in Heaven, in the air, on the earth. The scenes in Heaven are numerous. John heard voices, singing; angels and glorified saints were seen on every hand. John saw the elders and heavenly creatures bowing in worship to Jehovah; thrones, crowns, robes, living creatures, books, harps, and much more. These things tell us of the eternal happiness and ceaseless activity of Heaven's teeming millions. Up to this point we have had glimpses into Heaven, but now Heaven is open. In chapter four we read, **"I saw and behold a door open in heaven."**

Now, Heaven is open. In Revelation 4:1 the door was opened that John might enter in. Here in Revelation 19 Heaven is opened that the millions of horsemen may pass out into the sky. There are four times in the New Testament where we read of Heaven being opened: Matthew 3:16; John 1:51; Acts 7:56 and Revelation 19:11. On all four occasions the opening of Heaven is in connection with the Lord Jesus Christ. Two of these instances are past; two are yet future.

THE CONQUEROR AND HIS ARMY DESCRIBED

Revelation 19:11-16:

11. **And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.**
12. **His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.**
13. **And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.**
14. **And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.**
15. **And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**
16. **And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**

The first thing John saw was “**a white horse.**” This signifies victorious power. The name of the rider was “**Faithful and True.**” No one but the Lord Jesus Christ could bear that title. He was faithful to the Father in every minute detail and **He is the Truth.**

He judges, and in righteousness makes war. He is coming to settle the destinies of the world and its inhabitants. The rider of the white horse is not only a mighty warrior and conqueror; He is also a righteous Judge. He is coming to judge in righteousness, as well as to destroy in blood. God “**hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead**” (Acts 17:31).

Here the appointed day is about to dawn. The Man ordained to judge in righteousness is the Commander-in-Chief of the armies of Heaven approaching the earth. This is a war like no war that has ever been fought up to this hour. It is not a war for the love of conquest or to enlarge a king's territory. It is a war to put down evil and enthrone righteousness on earth, in order that there may be peace on earth, good will toward men, and the knowledge of the Lord cover the earth as the waters now cover the sea. Jesus is about to prepare the earth for the reign of righteousness promised - but up to this point never fulfilled. The night Jesus was born the angels announced the birth of a King, and added, “**Peace on earth, good will toward men.**” That has never been, but it will be when King Jesus puts down the armies of Antichrist, sits on the throne of His father David, and reigns in righteousness.

In verse 12 we read, “**His eyes were as a flame of fire.**” He is approaching earth to observe all, to search out every hidden evil, and to execute righteous judgment. His eyes “**a flame of fire**” denote omniscience - nothing shall escape the all-seeing eye of the One who sits on the white charger.

“ . . . **On His head were many crowns** [diadems].” The word used here for “**crowns**” is not the same word used referring to the crowns of the saints in chapter 4:4, 10. The word here translated “**crowns**” expresses royal dignity and denotes absolute and supreme authority.

In chapter 12:3 the dragon has seven diadems on his head . . . the same Greek word used here. In Revelation 13:1 the Beast has on his horns ten diadems. Thus, the Beast and the dragon will exercise great and Supreme power during their reign; but note that there is only One who can be entrusted to exercise absolute authority and dominion. He is the Lord Jesus Christ. (Read Psalm 8). Seven diadems the dragon wore. Ten diadems the Beast wore. But “**ON HIS (Christ’s) HEAD WERE MANY DIADEMS!**” This signifies that He is supreme over all governments, and in the end all authority and power will crumble under His mighty hand.

Verse 12: “. . . **He had a name written that no man knew, but He Himself.**”

There are divine names such as God, JEHOVAH, Christ, Jesus, Lord, Saviour, which express the relationship between Jehovah God and His creatures; but here is a name not revealed to man. Christ the Son, in the fulness of His divine nature and eternal existence, can alone be known by the Father (Matthew 11:27).

Christ has been forever. He was, and ever will be. There is no name to express such eternal existence - past, present and future. Christ alone can understand the fullness of who and what He was in the eternity behind us, of what He is in the present, and of what He will be throughout the eternity ahead of us. The finite mind of man cannot comprehend the fullness of the eternal Godhead.

Verse 13: “**And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God.**” the blood on the garments of the rider of the white horse is not His own blood, but the blood of His enemies. He has come to deal with the opposing armies of Antichrist who have gathered themselves together in war against the Lamb.

In Isaiah 63:1-4 we read concerning the victorious return from the land of Edom, from the capital city Bozrah.

With vengeance in His heart, and His righteous garments stained with the Blood of His enemies, the Lord is seen in this battle; but here in Revelation, His garment dipped in blood is witnessed even before He enters into the great conflict. This is a certain guarantee that righteous vengeance shall be meted out to the fullest extent upon the millions gathered against the Lamb of God, led by the Beast and the false prophet. There is no doubt concerning the victory of this battle. The Lamb came the first time in humility, riding upon an ass; but He will come this second time riding a great white charger, to drain the blood of His enemies. He must reign until all enemies have become His footstool - and He will!

This does not sound like the “grandfather-God” the liberals and modernists love to preach about, does it? Oh, yes, God is love, God is longsuffering, tender, good and kind; but God is a consuming fire, He is angry with the wicked every day.

Verse 13 closes with “**His name is called the Word of God.**” From the pen of eight sacred writers, God gives us the New Testament. John is the only one of the eight who applies this title to the Lord Jesus Christ. As The Word, Christ represents the Lord God in His being, in His character and in His righteous and holy works.

In John 1:1 we read, “**In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**” Therefore, in the beginning we see “**The Word of Life.**”

In John 1:14 we read, “**And the Word was made flesh.**” The Word was in the beginning. Nineteen hundred years ago the Word took a body. As the Word, Jesus has personal, independent, eternal existence (John 1:1, 2). As the Word, He is maker of all things, and without Him was not anything made that was made (John 1:3; Hebrews 1:1-3).

As the Word, He is the revealer of God . . . He is the One who makes God known to man (John 1:14).

Our words should be the expression of what we are. The words of Christ were the absolute expression of what He ever is (John 8:25). As the Word, Jesus reveals God in His essential nature as the Light of the World, as Love, and as the only begotten Son. As the Word, Jesus declares the Father. The first without the second would leave a great blank. The finite mind cannot take in or understand a God who has no beginning and no ending, by whom all things were made, and in whom all life consists. The finite mind of man simply cannot conceive the magnitude of an eternal spirit (God is a Spirit); but Jesus (the Word) took a body and brought God to man. God was in Christ (II Corinthians 5:19) reconciling the world unto Himself.

The title used here in Revelation 19:13 (“**His name is called the Word of God**”) has singular significance, It is God who is here seen moved into action – the Lord God, Almighty God!

The very nature of God demands the judgment of those on earth who attempt to frustrate His purpose to place His Son as King on Mount Zion and to place into His hands the government of earth:

In Isaiah 9:6-7 God promised a King upon whose shoulders the government would rest. In Luke 1, Jesus was promised the throne of David, and He must occupy that throne. When the armies of Antichrist attempt to stop the King of kings, Jehovah God goes into action as “**THE WORD OF God.**”

Christ, the Word of God, is the absolute and final expression of God in righteous judgment about to take place just before the beginning of the Millennium, the one thousand years of perfect peace on earth (Isaiah 11; Revelation 20:4-6).

Verse 14: **“And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.”** The riders of the white horses were clothed in fine linen, white and clean. This is the heavenly attire of the saints that make up the Bride. It is clear that the Bride will accompany Christ when He returns to the earth.

We have here the fulfillment of the prophecy of Enoch: In Jude 14 and 15 we read, “ . . . **Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.**”

What a sight! What a sight!! What a tremendous sight!!! If you can, let your imagination picture this: Look toward the sky, and there is the appearance of what seems to be a giant white thunderhead.

But it is moving swiftly, and as it comes nearer the shapes of horses and riders come into view. Out in front we see a great white charger, a tremendous animal, and the rider is most unusual. His eyes are a flame of fire. A great host is riding toward the earth.

Verse 15: **“AND OUT OF HIS MOUTH GOETH A SHARP SWORD, THAT WITH IT HE SHOULD SMITE THE NATIONS: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”**

This verse points out a very significant thing: The only weapon the heavenly host has is **“a sharp sword.”** The armies have no weapons, they will need no weapons.

The battle is THE LORD’S! **“Out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations.”** The reference here points back to Isaiah 11:4. When Judas led the soldiers to arrest Jesus, Jesus simply spoke - and His enemies fell to the ground (John 18:5,6).

The Word of God smites, slays, destroys. The power of the Word is irresistible. God needs no hydrogen warheads, guided missiles, atomic submarines nor supersonic bombers! All God need do is utter the Word, and creatures disintegrate. God needs no weapons made with hands.

It is very interesting to note, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”** (John 5:24). But those who refuse to hear the Word will be destroyed by the very Word that could have brought them life. The Word brings life to all who believe; the same Word metes out death to all who refuse to hear it.

No wonder the devil has attempted to destroy the Word of God and discredit our Bible! Beware of the man who twists the Word to fit his religion.

Verse 15: **“ . . . and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”** HE SHALL RULE! He shall govern (chapter 12:5). (Read Psalm 2 and Psalm 149:6-9).

The term **“with a rod of iron”** denotes that the ungodly, determined will of the nations must be broken and their power put down. Jesus Christ, the King of kings, is the only One who can do that. The fact that He (the Lamb, the humble One who has now become King of kings, the mighty One) treads the winepress of His fury and the winepress of the wrath of God denotes His utmost wrath. Almighty God is moved to fury. **“Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord.”** We see three symbols of judgment in verse 15. First, a sharp sword. Second, a rod of iron. Third, the winepress of the wrath of Almighty God. **“I HAVE TRODDEN THE WINEPRESS ALONE, AND OF THE PEOPLE THERE WAS NONE WITH ME”** (Isaiah 63:3).

Verse 16: **“And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS!”**

His garment, the outward character of the Lord Jesus as beheld by others, bears a title of complete universal dominion. Instead of the sword on His thigh as recorded in Psalm 45:3, the name is written on His thigh and the sharp sword is in His mouth. One would naturally look for the sword on His thigh; instead, it is in His mouth, and on His thigh they read His name.

THE GREAT SUPPER OF ALMIGHTY GOD, THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON Revelation 19:17-18:

17. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

18. That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

In verses 7 and 8 we have the account of the marvelous, joyous marriage supper of the Lamb. In verses 17 and 18 we have the account of the great supper of God. The word **“great”** in verse 17 should be before **“supper”** and not before **“God.”** It is a great supper - we know He is a great God.

Verse 17: **“I saw an angel standing in the sun.”** This angel could be none other than the angel of the Lord. He is standing in the sun, denoting the center of governmental authority. He stands where all can clearly see him, and where he can survey the whole scene of conflict. The supper to which he invites the birds of the air immediately follows the battle of Armageddon.

The birds are invited to come. John sees in the Spirit what will literally take place when this great battle is fought. The great supper to which the birds are invited will be the bodies of the kings, captains, mighty men, horses, the riders of the horses, the bond, the free, the great and the small. Their bodies will be lying upon the Blood-drenched ground and the birds of prey will devour the flesh from their bones. This great multitude of human beings were slain by one sharp sword - the sword of the Christ who sits on the great white horse leading the teeming millions of white horses out of Heaven.

In verse 18 we read the word **“flesh”** five times in connection with this great supper to which the fowls of Heaven are invited. What a humiliating end to the strength, pomp and pride of the armies of Antichrist and the puppets who followed his power and rule! The vulture, the eagle and all other birds of prey will feed upon the flesh of kings, nobles and outstanding men of renown. **“That ye may eat the FLESH of kings, and the FLESH of captains, and the FLESH of mighty men, and the FLESH of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the FLESH of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.”**

THE TOTAL OVERTHROW OF THE BEAST, FALSE PROPHET, KINGS AND THEIR ARMIES

Revelation 19:19-21:

19. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

The day of the Lord has finally come. The Bible refers to this event as **“that day,”** and also as **“the great day.”** God is setting the stage and preparing for the Millennium, the glorious reign of peace on earth. Read Isaiah 65:17-19, 66:22; II Peter 2:13; Revelation 21:1.

The order of events concerning this gigantic episode is:

1. The return of the Lord in glory (Matthew 24:29,30).
2. The Beast and his hosts will be destroyed: The kings of the earth and their armies, and the false prophet which is the **“great and terrible”** (Revelation 19:11-21).
3. The judgment of the nations (Zechariah 14:1-9; Matthew 25:31-46).
4. The thousand years of peace, the Kingdom Age (Revelation 20:4-6).
5. Satanic revolt - the little season when Satan will be released after the Millennium to try them that are upon the earth (Revelation 20:7-10).
6. The second resurrection - the resurrection of the wicked, and the final judgment of the wicked (Revelation 20:11-15).
7. The DAY OF God - the time when the earth will be purged by fire (II Peter 3:10-13) and we will have a new Heaven, a new Earth, and the Pearly white City.

Let me point out something very significant: The description of the battle is mentioned very briefly, while many verses are given over to the description of the Great Conqueror, the Lord Jesus Christ, riding upon the great white charger. The battle is simply mentioned in verse 19, while many verses are given to the description of the conqueror. Jesus is worthy of all honor, praise, adoration and worship.

In verse 19 John saw the Beast, the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together.

Here John witnessed the gigantic confederation of the kings of the earth and peoples of the earth - the greatest confederation of people and kings ever beheld. This host will consist of multiplied millions. The Beast is named first, and is the center of the movement against the Lamb of God. All the material resources and wealth of the mighty revived empire make up what the Beast heads up.

Secondly, we have the kings of the earth - the very kings who wailed, moaned and groaned over the destruction of Babylon. The social and political authorities of Christendom unite with the Beast in this last tremendous attempt to overthrow God Almighty and His Christ. The battle started in Heaven when Satan brainwashed some of the angels, attempted to overthrow God, and was thrown out of Heaven (Ezekiel 28:1-19; Isaiah 14:12-17).

Next, we have mentioned **“their armies.”** This refers to the combined armies of the Beast and all of the kings. They are all **“gathered together.”** No Caesar, Napoleon, Hitler or Mussolini could bring together such a vast combination of power. Satan is the master mind behind this last movement against God. In Revelation 16:13-16 the veil is lifted and we witness the true character of this last drive. Three unclean spirits like frogs, originating from Satanic source and character, endowed with Satanic power to work miracles, **“go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”** The place where they will gather is named **“Armageddon”** (Revelation 16:16).

The Word of God is clear in making known the forces who oppose the Lamb. The place of the battle is also clear, and it is just as clearly stated that the teeming millions who make up the army of Antichrist come **“to make war against Him that sat upon the horse, and against His army.”** Search your history books; see if you can find one suggestion that such a battle has ever been fought. And yet some ministers have the audacity to teach that Revelation is behind us!

The Satanic trinity hates the Lamb, the rider of the great white horse, and makes war against His army of blood-washed saints who make up the New Testament Church. There has never been a battle such as this, nor will there ever be another battle like it! In Revelation 14:18-20 we read, **“Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood (not wine) came out of the winepress even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thou sand and six hundred furlongs.”**

That adds up to 200 miles of blood up to the horses' bridles . . . approximately six feet deep.

Isaiah speaks of the time when the land shall be soaked with blood (Isaiah 34:1-8). The prophet Zechariah says, **“I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle . . . then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations”** (Zechariah 14:1-3). In verse 20 we read, **“And the Beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the Beast, and them that worshipped his image.”**

The term “**Beast**” usually refers to the empire, but here it refers to the personal chief of the empire. The character of the empire is molded by the Beast-ruler.

The empire and its ruling head, in interest and purpose, are one and the same. Of course, they can be distinguished as in Daniel 7, but here and elsewhere in Revelation the Beast-empire and its last great Imperial ruler are so vitally and closely connected that the former perishes in the everlasting ruin of its head.

The Beast (the man, of course) is cast alive into the lake of fire and brimstone. The false prophet that was with him is the Antichrist, the combination of all religious apostasy.

These two work in perfect unison, counterfeiting God the Father and God the Son in the trinity of God. The Beast will supply the strength; the false prophet will supply the counsel to carry out the strength. The false prophet is by far the more energetic and the more powerful of the two, because he is energized by the devil and contains all the power of hell. “**Who** (the false prophet) **wrought miracles before him** (the Beast),” by which he deceived the millions who will receive the mark of the Beast and who worship his image.

He (the false prophet) deceived these millions by the miracles he performed, such as pulling fire down from Heaven. His desire was to bring world-wide worship to the Beast . . . his superior in temporal power although his inferior in craft deception, Satanic influence and demon power. The diabolical work of the false prophet will turn millions to the Beast.

The false prophet will be energized by the devil and his power will be second only to that of God.

At this time Satan will give to the false prophet the power that he offered Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-6: “**And the devil said unto Him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: FOR THAT IS DELIVERED UNTO ME; and to whomsoever I will I give it.**”

Satan offered this power to Jesus if He would fall down and worship him. The Son of God refused and withstood every temptation the devil hurled at Him:

The devil is jealous of Jesus, and always has been; that was the cause of his downfall in Ezekiel 28. He wanted to exalt his throne above the throne of Almighty God. He attempted, he failed - but he has never given up and will not give up until he is placed into the lake of fire and brimstone.

“**These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone**” (verse 20). Yes, this is literal fire a lake of it. There are not enough words in all the languages of all the world to describe the horror of such a doom! These two - the Beast and false prophet - are not killed as are their followers. Physical death does not come to them; they are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone while still living in the bodies they possess during their ungodly reign.

One thousand years later, Satan will be cast into the same lake (Revelation 20:10).

Certainly this proves that the wicked do not burn up, for when Satan is cast into the lake of fire, the Beast and the false prophet are still there, burning! Fire and brimstone denote torment that is unspeakable (Isaiah 30:33).

This will be a literal lake - not of water, but of fire, regardless of what religions, preachers, teachers, or whosoever may have to say about it.

Verse 21: **“And the remnant were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of His mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”** The pride of the armies of the Antichrist lies in the dust of the earth in death . . . butchered; but not with bullets nor atomic bombs - butchered with the sword that proceeds out of the mouth of the King of kings.

The voice of fury of the King of kings shall strike suddenly, taking the lives of chiefs, captains, kings, millionaires. They will die on the spot - a horrible death - and their flesh will be devoured by the buzzards! There will be enough for all the birds . . . **“and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”**

The destiny of those who worship the Beast and join his army is revealed in Revelation 14:9-11 and Revelation 20:11-15.

In connection with the closing verses of this chapter, read Ezekiel 39:1-22, Matthew 24:27-28 and Joshua 10:1-11.

~ end of chapter 19 ~

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